[Sri K. Madhava Menon] [20th October 1947

NOTIFICATION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 7 of the Cotton Transport Act, 1923 (Central Act III of 1923), His Excellency the Governor of Madras hereby makes the following amendment to the rules published with Development Department Notification No. 278, dated the 19th September 1928, at pages 1455 to 1461 of Part I of the Fort St. George Gazette, *dated the 25th September 1928, as subsequently amended :—*

Amendment.

In the said rules, after rule (9), the following rule shall be inserted, namely :—

" (9-A) *The licensing authority may require the inspection of any consignment of cotton by an officer of the Agricultural Department before the grant of a licence for the import of the consignment into a protected area. The rates for such inspection shall be Re. 1 per bale of 400 lb. of cotton lint or Rs. 2 per bale of 800 lb. of cotton kapas subject to a minimum of Rs. 100. The officer will not be deputed for inspection outside the limits of the Province.*" '

" The notification has been necessitated because with a view to maintain the quality and reputation of cotton grown in certain areas in the Province the Government have issued a notification under sections 3 and 7 of the Cotton Transport Act. The notification prohibits the import of cotton from the northern, western and southern areas except under a licence issued under section 10 of the Cotton Transport Act. A fee has not been prescribed for the grant of a licence. Since the Legislature has already decided that a fee should be prescribed the amendment that I have tabled is only prescribing a fee for inspection."

The resolution was put and carried.

IV.—GOVERNMENT BILLS—*cont.*

(2) THE MADRAS HACKNEY CARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1947 (L.A. BILL NO. 18 OF 1947).

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I move, Sir—

' *that the Madras Hackney Carriage (Amendment) Bill*[a], *1947 (L.A. Bill No. 18 of 1947) as passed by the Legislative Assembly be taken into consideration at once.*'

" Sir, this is a simple amendment seeking to raise the fee from two annas to four annas on account of the rise in the cost of printing the list of fares."

The motion was put and carried.

Clauses 2, 1 and the Preamble were put and carried.

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[a] Printed as Appendix V on page 481 infra.

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I move, Sir—
'*that the Bill be passed into law.*' "

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed into law.

(3) THE PRISONS (MADRAS AMENDMENT) BILL, 1947 (L.A. BILL NO. 19 OF 1947).

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I move, Sir—
'*that the Prisons (Madras Amendment) Bill*[a], *1947 (L.A. Bill No. 19 of 1947), as passed by the Legislative Assembly be taken into consideration at once.*'

" Sir, the Bill seeks to remove the punishment of whipping for persons who are on hunger strike. The punishment of whipping for hunger strikes was introduced in 1942. My predecessor Mr. Bhashyam thought and rightly thought that this was a barbarous punishment for going on hunger strike, namely, whipping a prisoner who is on hunger strike either during the time of the hunger strike or after the hunger strike is over. When this Bill was introduced in the other House the debate on the question ranged from all angles of jail reform. I submit that the scope of the Bill is very limited and the questions whether other punishments in jail are just or not or what reform should be undertaken are under the consideration of the Government. Certain punishments are necessary for hunger strikes in jail. At the time when Mr. Bhashyam was in office there was a wave of hunger strikes and he thought that the punishment of whipping was unnecessary or improper in such cases. Sir, I cannot agree that hunger strike is the proper form of expression of grievances in jails or anywhere else. This has been used now-a-days more as a stunt than for any real objection. Whatever that may be the punishment of whipping for hunger strikes is unnecessary and improper and I, therefore, move, Sir, that the amendment may be accepted by the House and the Bill be taken into consideration at once."

The motion was put and carried.

Clauses 2, 1 and the Preamble were put and carried.

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I move, Sir—
'*that the Bill be passed into law.*' "

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed into law.

(4) THE PRISONS (MADRAS AMENDMENT NO. II) BILL, 1947 (L.A. BILL NO. 20 OF 1947).

* THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Sir, I move—
'*that the Prisons (Madras Amendment No. II) Bill*[b], *1947 (L.A. Bill No. 20 of 1947) as passed by the Legislative Assembly be taken into consideration at once.*'

" This is also a very small matter, Sir. To avoid certain technical difficulties civil debtors when they are arrested are

a Printed as Appendix VI on page 482 infra.

b Printed as Appendix VII on page 482 infra.